

Message Text

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21

ACTION AF-06

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-03 H-01 INR-07 L-02

NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-01 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-02 SS-15

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R 300654Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY MASERU

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4637

INFO AMEMBASSY GABORONE

AMEMBASSY MBABANE

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PINT, EAID, LT

SUBJECT: STUDENT UNREST AT UNIVERSITY

1. STUDENTS AT ROMA UBLS CAMPUS DEMONSTRATED AGAINST UNIVERSITY ADMINISTRATION JAN 27 AND ARE NOW ON STRIKE. STUDENTS, CHARGING THEY ARE BEING UNDERDEVELOPED RATHER THAN DEVELOPED, PRESENTED LIST OF GRIEVANCES LARGELY ABOUT STAFF PROBLEMS, PROTESTING DEPARTURE OF TWO AFRICAN FACULTY MEMBERS AND DEMANDING IMMEDIATE TERMINATION OF BRITISH MATHEMATICS LECTURER.

2. VICE CHANCELLOR ROGERS MET STUDENTS AND TOLD THEM THEIR COMPLAINTS WOULD BE TAKEN UP IN APPROPRIATE WAY. STUDENTS THEREAFTER MET TO CONSIDER WHAT TO DO IF THEIR DEMANDS NOT PROMPTLY ACTED UPON AND DECISION TO STRIKE IS EVIDENT OUTCOME. ROGERS HAS BEEN REINFORCED BY OFFICIALS FROM BOTSWANA AND SWAZILAND AND LATEST REPORT IS THAT ROGERS MET WITH PRIME MINISTER JONATHAN MORNING JAN 29 TO DISCUSS UBLS SITUATION.

3. LOCAL RADIO REPORTS HAVE IT THAT STUDENTS UPSET THAT ONE OF AFRICAN FACULTY MEMBERS FIRED. THIS PERSON NOT KNOWN TO
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US BUT OTHER RECENTLY-DEPARTED FACULTY MEMBER IS SOUTH

AFRICAN SELBOURNE NGCOBO WHO RECENTLY LEFT FOR SIX-MONTH
WORLD BANK CONSULTANCY IN WASHINGTON. BRITISH HIGH
COMMISSIONER INFORMS US THAT MATHEMATICS LECTURER FAVORABLY
KNOWN TO HIM AND HE THINKS STUDENTS MAY HAVE TURNED AGAINST
HIM BECAUSE HE DEMANDS A HIGH STANDARD.

4. STUDENT RESTLESSNESS ALSO EVIDENT FROM ROUGH TREATMENT
GIVEN JUSTICE MINISTER C. NCFHZUZZ WHEN HE ADDRESSED
STUDENTS ON POLITICAL RECONCILIATION AT ROMA EVENING OF
JAN 24. MOLAPO WAS DROWNED OUT BY SHOUTING WHEN HE
TOLD STUDENTS THAT PRESENT GOVERNMENT'S THEFT OF 1970 ELECTIONS
SHOULD BE FORGOTTEN.
HAUGHT

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